

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02

AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 IO-11 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

EA-07 NEA-10 OPIC-03 /091 W

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R 211648Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 342

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1568

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OCED, EEC

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING OF OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP
ON COMMODITIES

REF: (A) STATE 13335, (B) EC BRUSSELS 490

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL A, THE MISSION MET ON JAN. 21 WITH
EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL JOSE NICOLAI, THE ADVISER TO JOSEPHUS
LOEFF, THE ACTING EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INDUSTRY
WHO WILL BE THE COMMISSION'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE CIEC
COMMISSION ON RAW MATERIALS (CORM). WE TOLD NICOLAI OF
OUR DESIRE TO HOLD A MEETING OF THE OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP
ON COMMODITIES (HLGC) JUST PRIOR TO THE CORM MEETING
AND OF OUR BELIEF THAT THE GROUP B PAPER DEVELOPED AT THE DECEMBER
MEETING OF THE UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES COULD PROVIDE
A USEFUL STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION IN THE OECD HIGH-LEVEL
GROUP AND IN CORM.

2. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, NICOLAI SAID HE AGREED THAT
THE GROUP B PAPER WOULD BE A USEFUL BASIS FROM WHICH
TO WORK. HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION
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OF THE PROPOSED FEB. 9-10 HLGC MEETING AND THE USE OF

THE GROUP B PAPER WITH HIS SUPERIORS AND GET BACK TO US.
THE EC COUNCIL ON JANUARY 20 WENT ON RECORD AS PREFERRING
THAT INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY COORDINATION PROIR TO CIEC COMMISSION
MEETINGS TAKE PLACE IN THE G-8 RATHER THAN IN THE OECD.
(DETAILS REPORTED SEPTEL.)

3. SPEAKING GENERALLY, NICOLAI SAID THAT HE BELIEVED
IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO MEET IN THE OECD WITH THE NON-
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AFTER A CIEC COMMISSION MEETING,
NOT BEFORE. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HARD ENOUGH TO COORDINATE
THE VIEWS OF THE NINE AND THEN OF THE OTHER CIEC COMMISSION
PARTICIPANTS. IT WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO TRY TO
COORINATE VIEWS OF ALL THE OECD COUNTRIES JUST PRIOR TO
A CIEC COMMISSION MEETING, PARTICULARLY AS PARTICIPANTS
BY THEN ALREADY HAVE FIXED INSTRUCTIONS. IN AN OECD
MEETING AFTER A CIEC COMMISSION MEETING, THE NON-
PARTICIPNTS COULD BE INFORMED OF WHAT HAD OCCURRED AND
COULD STATE THEIR POSITIONS. THE CIEC PARTICIPANTS
WOULD HAVE SEVERAL WEEKS TO TAKE THE POSITIONS OF THE
NON-PARTICIPANTS INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE FORMING THEIR OWN
POSITIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING. GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU00603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760024-0004
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760136/aaaabfav.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 13335, 76 EC BRUSSELS 490
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL FOR FEBRUARY MEETING OF OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006